



News Release

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North American Van Lines to Add 260 Jobs in Allen County

Allen County, Ind. – North American Van Lines (www.navl.com) plans to add 260 jobs and reinvest \$29 million in its Allen County campus at 5001 U.S. Highway 30 West over the next five years, Lt. Governor Joe Kernan, Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard and Allen County Commissioner Edwin Rousseau announced today. Local operations currently employ more than 1,100 individuals. Allen County was in competition with Ohio and Illinois for the reinvestment, and for the existing and new jobs.

The U.S. 30 campus will become part of the city of Fort Wayne in 2004 through a previously approved annexation. As a result, the City worked cooperatively with Allen County to develop a local plan to keep and grow North American Van Lines in Northeast Indiana. Local efforts were supported by incentives offered by the joint JobWorks/Department of Workforce Development office in Fort Wayne, and by the Indiana Department of Commerce (Commerce). The Fort Wayne-Allen County Economic Development Alliance (Alliance) coordinated the community's interaction with North American Van Lines.

“We have again demonstrated Indiana's ability to compete and win in the economic development arena,” said Kernan, who serves as director of Commerce. “This project is vitally important to Hoosiers in this part of the state and we're proud to have worked with our local partners to get the job done. Indiana values the presence of North American Van Lines in our state, and we'll do everything possible to sustain and grow its local operations.”

“The city of Fort Wayne recognizes the huge impact North American Van Lines has on the local economy,” added Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard. “The existing jobs account for nearly \$50 million in annual compensation, and the new jobs will add at least \$9 million when they are fully realized. North American's reinvestment in equipment and training is also significant. That's why the City worked with our local and state partners to win this project.”

“This is definitely good news for Allen County and Northeast Indiana,” stated Allen County Commissioner Edwin Rousseau. “We've been hard at work with North American Van Lines over the past six months to make sure the existing jobs are retained, the reinvestment takes place, and the new jobs are created here in Allen County. We're happy to say we were successful in that effort.”

North American Van Lines worked closely with the City of Fort Wayne, Allen County, the Indiana Department of Commerce's Region 3 office and the Alliance to negotiate a potential \$5.3 million incentive package. Commerce awarded \$2 million in Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) tax credits for the creation of 260 new jobs and \$1 million in EDGE tax credits for the retention of the existing 1,127 jobs. The state also awarded \$425,000 from its Skills Enhancement Fund and \$50,000 in Technology Enhancement Certification for Hoosiers Fund (TECH Fund) to assist in workforce training required by the project. In addition, the City of Fort Wayne offered \$1.5 million in assistance from a Local EDGE (LEDGE) agreement tied to the retained jobs, and Allen County awarded \$234,405 in LEDGE assistance for the attraction of the new jobs. The Department of Workforce Development and JobWorks awarded \$130,500 to assist the company in worker recruitment, screening and training needs.

The Commerce Department awards EDGE tax credits based on payroll to companies that expand within Indiana, particularly when a project would otherwise locate in another state or country. Skills Enhancement Fund grants are awarded to Indiana companies that undertake capital investment projects to defray the costs of training new and current employees in basic work skills and company-specific skills. The Technology Enhancement Certification Fund is a reimbursement grant program whose purpose is to help Indiana companies meet the demands of the new information economy by rapidly increasing the number of certified information technology workers in Indiana.

“The Alliance is proud to have coordinated the cooperative effort to keep and grow North American Van Lines in Allen County,” said M. James Johnston. Johnston chairs the Alliance Board of Directors. “Retention of key base employers like North American is absolutely vital to the overall economic health of our region. That’s why we spend the majority of our time with existing employers, so that as a community we seize opportunities such as this. It’s a good day for Northeast Indiana.”

Individuals interested in applying for positions with SIRVA may submit a resume at the joint offices of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and JobWorks at 201 East Rudisill Boulevard. Interested individuals can also e-mail resumes to rbennettsheirbon@jobworksinc.org.

About North American Van Lines

Established in 1933, North American Van Lines, Inc. is a world leader in relocation, high value products transportation, distribution and logistics services. North American Van Lines is one of the established global brands of SIRVA, Inc. (www.sirva.com), a Clayton, Dubilier & Rice portfolio company and the industry’s largest worldwide relocation and moving services company. More information about North American Van Lines can be found at www.navl.com.

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